

Spring School

COLONIAL STUDIES

Academic Year 2025/26

Art. 1

The Scuola Normale Superiore is organising for the academic year 2025/2026 - within the **MERITA Project, the network for talent**, with funding of the Piano Nazionale di Ripresa e Resilienza (PNRR) (NRRP, the National Recovery and Resilience Plan), Mission 4 – Education and Research, Component 1, Investment 3.4 "Advanced university training and skills" – "Reinforcement of the Scuole universitarie superiori (the university institutes of higher education)", Public notice pursuant to Director's Decree No. 594/2024 – a Spring School in "**Colonial Studies**".

The Colonial Studies Spring School will be held in person from 20 April to 23 April 2026 at the Scuola Normale Superiore, Palazzone di Cortona (Arezzo, Tuscany), for a total of 28 hours.

The official language of the course is English.

The Spring School will have a maximum of 20 participants.

Art. 2

Educational objectives

The "Colonial Studies" Spring School at SNS has the aim of addressing new perspectives on colonial studies focusing in its first edition on **Indigeneity and Colonisation**. In the first part of the course, participants will explore the poetics and ethics of the historical narrative pertaining to Settler-colonialism. In the second part, we explore the history and present of Settler-colonisation, and the manner in which Colonialism was and continues to be ordained through Capitalism. We pause at polychronic conjunctures in history to analyse the interconnectedness of Colonial studies to Feminism, for example, as a method to understanding structures of power and domination manifested in oppression, supremacy and privilege. In the third part of the course, we explore possibilities of decolonization emerging from the South. We look at collective action and agency in the struggle against colonisation. Here we study social and political anti-colonial movements. We also explore novel research on solidarity movements, and the instrumentalization of epistemic methods of oppression to suppress international solidarity against forms of colonization. Finally, we will elaborate on the epistemic structures of knowledge production on Colonization while also discussing the pitfalls and crises of colonial studies in living up to contemporary challenges.

In a continuously changing world, colonization changes forms and colors. We will discuss in this course American Imperialism in the context of subjugating Iraq and Venezuela and, potentially, Greenland to violence, war and exploitation.

Art. 3

Those qualifying and admission requirements

The above described activities are suitable for students of Italian and non-Italian universities enrolled in courses of Master's Degree, PhD, or young researchers.

Admission requirements: Candidates are asked to send a CV and a 300-words abstract for a research paper in the domain of colonial studies. Applicants may refer to one of the main themes presented in the description.

Selection mode: The selection will be based on candidates' CV, and on the abstract.

Art. 4

Organisation of the Course

The first day is made up of 4 hours of lectures (starting around 3 pm), the following three days are made up of 8 hours of lectures respectively (from 9 am to 7 pm, with a lunch break of about two hours and additional breaks).

Presence is required and there is no test at the end of the Spring school.

Art. 5

Admission applications

Those intending to compete for admission to the Spring school must apply using the form at the following [link](#). For further information please address your questions to: colonial.studies@sns.it

Deadline: 10 February 2026

The following documentation must be attached to the application, on pain of non-admittance to the course:

- an up-to-date CV;
- a valid identity document;
- a 300-words abstract for a research paper in the domain of colonial studies. Applicants may refer to one of the main themes presented in the description.

In addition to the mandatory documentation, applicants may provide further materials deemed relevant to the admission process.

All applications arriving late or in a form different from that stated in the article herein, for whatever reason, will not be taken into consideration.

False or mendacious declarations are punishable pursuant to the Penal Code and to the specific Laws, Arts. 75 and 76 of D.PR. 445/2000.

At any moment of the procedure, including after the start of the Course, the Scuola may carry out checks as to the veracity of the declarations submitted and the documents produced and may request to see the documents in the original. In the case of false declarations, the Scuola may invoke a special Rector's Decree for the exclusion of the applicant, except for any ensuing penal responsibilities.

Art. 6

Enrolment fees and benefits

Participation in the course does not entail enrolment fees.

Admission to the course includes participation in the lectures, the educational material and lunch on the days when the course takes place.

Participants have to make their own arrangements for travel and accommodation.

Based on the ranking, participants can apply for scholarships for travel reimbursement or accommodation: there will be 10 scholarships awarded, providing a maximum reimbursement of €400,00 for travel expenses; and 10 places for accommodation in double-rooms. As an additional criterion, with respect to what is set out in art. 3, the distance between the applicant's home institution and the city of Cortona will be considered.

Art. 7

Acceptance procedure

Communication of acceptance will be provided by 20 February 2026, by email.

Participants have to confirm their participation by 1 March 2025, by email.

Art. 8

Certification issued

On termination of the course, those having attended at least 80% of the lectures will be awarded by the Scuola Normale Superiore a certificate of participation valid within the limits permitted by law.

Art. 9

Processing of personal data and manager of the procedure

EU Regulation 2016/679, the General Data Protection Regulation, is applicable to the candidates' personal data processing.

The Data Controller of the personal data provided by the interested parties is the Scuola Normale Superiore, a public university institute, located in Piazza dei Cavalieri, 7 Pisa - 56126, in the person of its Director and pro tempore legal representative.

Applicants' personal data will be collected by the Scuola for the purposes of the selection/admission procedure and will be processed for the fulfilment of the same, and, for successful applicants, for the subsequent career management of the PhD students and all connected activities.

Personal data are thus provided to the SNS for the performance of tasks of public interest or at any rate connected to the exercising of its public powers, including the purposes of archiving, historical research and analysis for statistical purposes. Personal data will be processed, also with automated tools (software and databases administered by the SNS and hosted by any contracting entities), in compliance with the principles of accountability, lawfulness, correctness, minimization, transparency, integrity, accuracy, confidentiality and proportionality.

The personal data collected will be communicated or transferred to third parties (public and / or private parties) in the context of institutional relations, for the fulfilment of legal obligations or regulations or of contracts, within the services required by the SNS (access to facilities, etc.).

The personal data collected may be communicated or transferred to parties established in third countries, but only if suitable data protection guarantees and conditions have been ascertained.

The personal data collected will be published on the official online register and on the SNS's institutional website if specified by the law and other regulations of the SNS.

The personal data collected will be processed and stored for the time strictly necessary to achieve the purposes for which they have been collected, with the application of the regulations concerning documentation storage by public institutions.

The data subject may at all times exercise the following rights:

- a) access to personal data, under the terms and conditions of Art. 15 of the Regulations;
- b) the rectification, erasure or restriction of the processing of personal data, under the terms and conditions of Articles 16-18 of the Regulations; erasure is not permitted for data included in any documents that the SNS is required to keep;
- c) the portability of data, under the terms and conditions of Art. 20 of the Regulations;
- d) objection to the processing of his or her data, under Article 21 of the Regulations;
- e) the right to submit a complaint to the Data Protection Authority, by sending a request to the e-mail address privacy@sns.it or via PEC (certified e-mail) to the e-mail address protocollo@pec.sns.it.

For any further information, please contact the Data Protection Officer (DPO), at the e-mail address dpo@sns.it

Art. 10

Final provisions and referrals, information

The head of the Teaching Activities Service, Dr. Silvia Marcacci, is the administrative manager of the procedure.